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SUMMARY

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THE ROLE OF HEAVY CHEMICAL PRODUCTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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THE ROLE OF HEAVY CHEMICAL PRODUCTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

by

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SUMMARY

The chapter entitled GENERAL defines heavy chemical products as being produced on a large scale, at a low cost, and being of great importance as basic and intermediate products for the great industry of consumer goods.

It is pointed out that the industrial and economic development of a country in whatever stage of development is greatly affected by the chemical industry, and especially by the industry of heavy chemical products. In countries with a rural economy, the production of sulphuric acid and of derivatives of Nitrogen to be used in fertilizers plays a fundamental role.

In Part 2 there is an indication of the principal industries of basic products, starting with the sulphuric acid, the Cl, the alkalis and derivatives; comparative figures of the world output are given as well as a table showing a breakdown of the amount consumed by other processing industries.

The Cl is the heavy chemical product most notably developed in the last years owing to the great demand from the industries of organic synthesis.

Starting with sulphuric acid, there is a review of the best known processes for the different industries of this group, and the author gives his opinion as regards the facilities, efficiency, advantages, etc., - from the technological point of view - of the types of installations in use throughout the world. Comments are made on every heavy chemical industry as regards their position, development, etc., in Uruguay and in other countries of Latin America.

Special reference is made to Cenizas de Soda Solvay (Soda Solvay Ashes), indicating the variation in capacity of the different plants, and giving the figure of fifty tons as the lowest daily output in competitive conditions.

Together with the Soda Solvay, the production of caustic soda, either by causticación or by electrolytic process, is analysed, as well as the causes that have been, up till now, an obstacle to the development of

these industries in South America. Particular reference is made to the policy of prices and competition among the big exporting companies, and besides this, the absence in some countries of Cl trade prevents the expansion of the "Chloro/Soda" industry.

When dealing with this industry, the installation with diaphragm and amalgam cells will be considered, and reference will be made to the present trend to install plants with high capacity mercury cells.

In a separate chapter, reference is made to the industries of amoniac, nytric acid and nitrogen salts, pointing out the technological development of catalytic synthesis processes for the amoniac and catalytic oxidation processes for the nitric. Mention is made of the great possibilities offered, even in our country, by the production of synthetic amoniac from the residual gazes in the petroleum refinery.

In the following chapter a summary is made of the requirements of the industries under consideration; of the consumption of raw materials and other important factors, according to the process in question, as well as an estimation of investments required for equipment, installation, etc., and the value of the respective yearly output.

Indicative figures are given for an estimation of the production cost, and of the investments and prospects of each particular industry.

The figures given show that the fundamental characteristics of the heavy chemical products industry are: abundance and low price of raw materials, low operative cost and rentability of investments.

At the end of the paper a general view is given of the situation of the industry in Uruguay and of the main factors limiting its development.

In our country, where the economy is based on the rural production, industrial expansion depends on the production of sulphuric acid and fertilizers. The plans for economic development attempt to promote and expand these industries. Present evolution.

Through the establishment of regional markets, new prospects are opened up for the installation and expansion of other industries, whether basic or secondary.

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